

Why is Vice's 'Waypoint' Pushing for 2018-style Cancel Culture for VTubing?


Or: an Open Letter from Kirsche Verstaht

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Hey Vice—what the fuck?

I'm Kirsche Verstaht. I'm a VTuber, which means I stream with a digital avatar that looks like this:





You can catch me on my stream on [Twitch](#) or [YouTube](#). I play games, watch memes, share my thoughts on the news—you know, what streamers do. I basically just tangent on whatever I find interesting and my Honorable Chatters affectionately call me a whiplash streamer. I have over 9000 browser tabs and 184,000 fans across Youtube, Twitch, and X (yay korsches!).

Also, I'm not a Nazi. They walk funny, did too much meth, and didn't like to laugh. And they probably would hate me and most of my friends. So how come you keep calling me one?

Vice used to be known for honest, real stuff ... kinda like what Gawker aspired to be before ... you know ... it decided to STEP INTO THE RING BROTHER. You did a whole issue dedicated to [people who are mentally ill](#). You sent [Dennis Rodman to North Korea](#). You even used to call out the mainstream media for not getting [YouTube](#).


In any event, starting about a month ago, "Waypoint," which is one of your . . . verticals? A quasi-independent outlet? A failed gaming news site that you are trying to revive? Something most people don't even know exists? Either way, it started publishing articles about me saying I'm a bigot, a Nazi simp, that I'm responsible for all sorts of online harassment.

It's completely untrue, of course, but also—why me? And why now? I am an anime fox woman, what could a once respectable news org want with me? Is it 2018 all over again? Is Vice the PC police for VTubers?

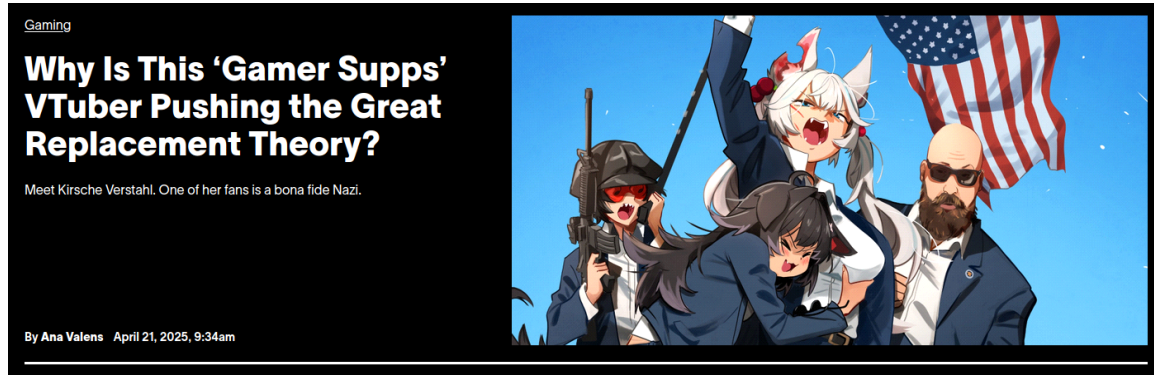
So again, Vice—what the fuck?

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Okay, let me break it down. I know I've covered this in my past couple of streams, but Vice isn't a subscriber (yet). Maybe if I tangent about their Columbian Donkey Fucking video a few more times they'll come around.



Here's the headline from the first article you published about me:




Share:

SCREENSHOT: KHYLE. AND BAGSTERD

Not to brag or anything, but I have over 184,000 fans. You're accusing me of bigotry because one of my fans is a supposed Nazi? That's like saying McDonald's supports communism because [Kim Jong Un likes Big Macs](#).



h/t to Kim Jong-un on X.



Rather than back up this outrageous accusation, the article starts by talking about . . . my sponsor Gamer Supps?

However, Gamer Supps is in hot water with many VTuber fans due to the behavior of one particular creator working with the company: Mythic Talent's Kirsche Verstahl. An anime foxgirl with a knack for sharing alt-right talking points, Kirsche has landed herself in controversy after controversy online due to her right-wing beliefs. At this point, it begs the question whether Gamer Supps will one day pull the plug on the VTuber for good.

Huh?? My first time hearing of all this supposed “controversy.” Literally I’ve been sponsored by Gamer Supps since September 2023.

This is a tactic called **manufacturing consensus**, where activists claim everyone agrees with them to make their points seem legitimate. Note that this paragraph doesn’t cite a single source.

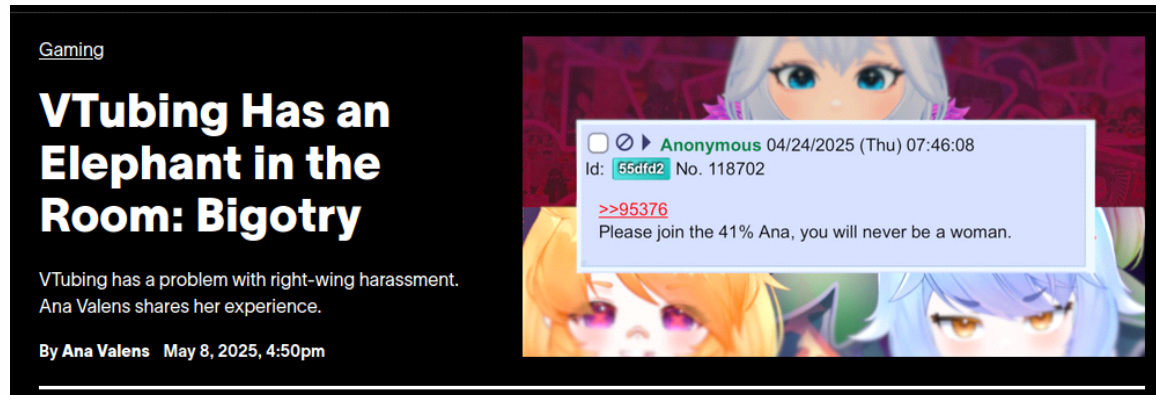
But also – **it is true I’ve never hidden my political leanings.** And yet, never heard of any “controversy” until this article started pretending there was one. I had a few weirdos on twitter harassing me, but as an oppressed Person of Anime I am used to that kinda thing.

And the sources cited in the article are . . . **anonymous posts on Reddit.** Really? Even the people making the posts claim they don't watch me and are just repeating hearsay. So a Vice journalist is repeating hearsay from someone who is repeating hearsay. Really?

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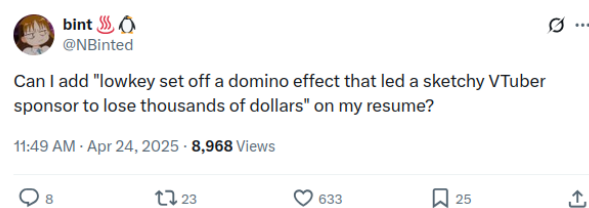


Here's the headline of the second article Vice published about me:



Obviously, I think harassment is bad. I don't do it, and I tell all my fans not to do it. The suggestion made repeatedly in this article – that I and my fans endorse harassment – is **totally false**.

In fact, **fully half of the tweets** quoted in this article are from a person who goes by Nbinted or Bint, who has serially harassed me for months. Does Ana Valens mention this in her article? No. Do I have proof of this harassment, which I would have shared if Vice bothered to ask? **Absolutely. Here are just a couple of examples:**



But the article doesn't talk about this. **Instead**, the article again talks about my sponsor Gamer Supps and tries to make it seem like there's some sort of controversy brewing:

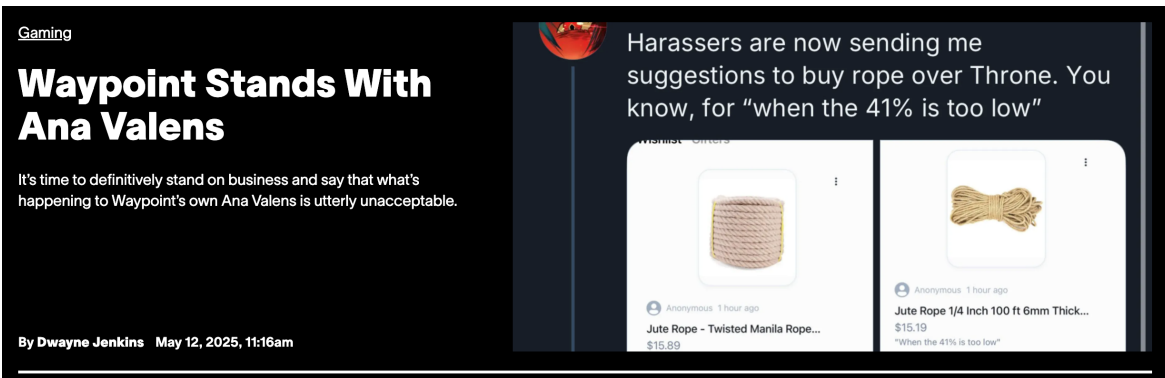
Original: Earlier this week, independent VTuber Rin Penrose announced the end of her partnership with gaming supplement company Gamer Supps. According to Penrose, her decision came "due to their associations with creators whose views strongly conflict with my own. As well as a lack of communication from the company on this issue."

Look, I love that Gamer Supps supports VTubers from every side of the political spectrum. That's one of the things that makes them such an amazing partner. That and their awesome supplements! Use code KIRSCHE for 10% off your gamersupps orders

I hope I continue to work with Gamer Supps. But if this effort to cancel me is successful, I have to wonder . . . who's next?



Here's the third article Vice wrote about me:




Again, I agree harassment is bad. No one should do it. I don't do it. I tell my fans not to do it.

The article says:

everything she's going through, but I'll sum it up. Ana is being attacked for simply asking questions about certain areas of the VTubing community — which she's an active part of.





Just asking questions?? Look, I read those articles pretty carefully. I don't see a lot of questions. Mostly a lot of statements based on Reddit threads and other anonymous sources. This seems very targeted at me, and why? I am an anime fox girl VTuber. You're Vice. What the fuck?

Also, this happened in the article:

THE TIME FOR GAMES IS OVER


Is irony just totally dead? We are still talking about Vtubing, right?

Anyway, **not to be all “you started it” – but you literally started it.** There was no “controversy.” No one, apart from a few anonymous internet trolls Vice quotes in its articles, was butthurt about what I was doing or saying on my stream until you started writing articles calling me a Nazi. And now you're calling **me** a bully, and saying it's time to start a war?

This is 2018-style Cancel Culture all over again. Or is it VTuberGate? Anyway, it's getting pretty tired. Someone says something you don't agree with? Start saying they're controversial, name-drop all the brands they work with, play the victim card, or rage tweet at them until their sponsors bail. This is the playbook used [over and over again](#).

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Anyway, if we're just asking questions, I have one! How come in the middle of all this Ana Valens is asking people to buy her gifts on Throne? Surely this isn't just a big branding opportunity for someone who wants to become the definitive VTuber journo. Right? Right??



I don't want to go to court over this. But if you keep calling me a Nazi, and keep calling for my sponsors to drop me, what else am I supposed to do?

Seriously, Vice, is this what you want? You want to be the PC police for VTubers? On your front page right now, you have articles about crazy horny mud truckers and how cool it is to be a goth in Ukraine right now. But my stream is too controversial?

I'm asking nicely . . . *uwu* . . . please take these articles down and stop pretending there's a controversy where there isn't. I promise if you do, I'll go back to streaming, and you can go back to reporting on the Berlin Sex Toy Expo or whatever it is you do now.

Love,

Kirsche

